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VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

The Honorable Jocelyn G. Boyd
Chief Clerk and Executive Director
Public Service Commission of South Carolina
101 Executive Center Drive, Suite 100
Columbia, South Carolina 29210

**Re: Joint Petition of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC for
Approval of Accounting Order to Defer Incremental COVID-19 Expenses to Be Included
in Future Rate Proceedings
Docket Nos. 2020-195-E**

Dear Ms. Boyd:

On April 16, 2021, the Office of Regulatory Staff (“ORS”) filed its Report in Response to Order No. 2021-232 addressing the Joint Petition of Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC and Duke Energy Progress, LLC (together, the “Companies”) for an accounting order to defer incremental Covid-19 related expenses. The Companies have received and are in the process of reviewing ORS’s Report but wish to provide the Commission with an initial response to the Report.

The Companies believe it is important to convey that a significant amount of consideration went into the Companies’ response to the Covid-19 pandemic and into the Companies’ request in this docket. Further, the Companies believe that the actions they have taken were for the benefit of their customers to assist them in getting through this unprecedented crisis. However, the Companies would like to take ORS’s concerns under advisement and devote the necessary time to develop a fulsome response for the Commission’s consideration. Therefore, the Companies are respectfully requesting that they be given until May 17, 2021 to respond fully to ORS’s Report and that any additional action in this docket, including setting this matter for public hearing, be suspended until such time. The Companies’ original request was filed in August 2020 and the Companies do not believe there is any urgency that would require the Commission to take action before that time.

By copy of this letter, I am serving all parties of record via electronic mail.

Sincerely,

Heather Shirley Smith

cc: Parties of record